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TANGANYIKA TERRITORY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ANNUAL REPORT, 1941

GENERAL

1941 was on the whole a disappointing year climatically. In those parts of the Territory which usually get their main rains between November and May the crops got off to a good start but this early promise was more than neutralized by the abrupt cessation of the rains altogether at the end of March and the result was that in these areas, although cotton did extremely well and was of very high quality, grain and other crops had a moderate season.

In the rest of the Territory the poor short rains of 1940 were followed by indifferent precipitation during the main growing season and crops generally were below average.

Planned production of export crops was difficult, if not impossible, as the kaleidoscopic changes brought about by the fluctuating fortunes of war, and especially as a result of the victorious conclusion of the East African campaign, turned, in several instances, unexportable surpluses into definite shortages.

The value of the chief agricultural commodities exported rose from £3,410,711 in 1940 to £3,754,018 in 1941. The average value per ton f.o.b. of the commodities included in the above total was £24 5s. 6d. compared with £22 7s. 6d. in 1940.

NOTES ON THE CHIEF EXPORT CROPS

Sisal. Although restriction of output commenced during the last two months of 1941 it only became statistically effective in 1941 during which year production amounted to 81,000 tons, of which 75,195 tons were shipped, and on the 31st December unshipped stocks of fibre in Tanganyika were estimated at 53,800 tons.

Early in the year it became evident that restriction of output must go hand-in-hand with control of quality and arrangements were made to ensure that as far as possible the quality of fibre produced should be that required by spinners. The Control has worked smoothly with the active support of the great majority of producers and by the close of the year increase of personnel allowed of inspection being carried out very largely at the point of production on the estates instead of at the port of shipment.

Early in 1942 the sisal growers of East Africa suffered an irretrievable loss through the death of Sir William Lead. From his first arrival in Tanganyika Sir William became a potent force in the development of the industry, and the fact that it not only weathered the storm of the "hungry thirties" but put itself in a position to meet to such a considerable extent the demands which the situation in the Far East has placed upon it is in no small measure due to Sir William's sage council and wise foresight.

As the first Sisal Controller of East Africa Sir William Lead consolidated the position of co-operation amongst the growers which he had been building up for more than a decade and the stable condition of the Tanganyika Sisal Growers' Association is a lasting tribute to his work.

Late in the year the enlargement of the conflict between the Democracies and the Axis powers due to the entry of Japan into the war necessitated arrangements being put in hand to produce the maximum output of sisal and, although a close analysis of the leaf potential for East Africa indicated a possible annual production of 175,000 tons of fibre, taking into account anticipated interruptions due to mechanical difficulties and loss of output through insufficient European personnel being available and especially through shortage of native labour, the Sisal Controller has budgeted for an estimated total output from East Africa during 1942 of 140,000 tons, of which Tanganyika's share is expected to be 108,000 tons.

Coffee. Exports of coffee during 1941 amounted to 13,667 tons valued at £448,000 compared with 15,634 tons and £441,000 during the previous year.

At the commencement of 1941 coffee was in the doldrums—our projected shipments to the United Kingdom had been cancelled and we were faced with the loss of a considerable portion of our normal American market through the new Pan-American coffee agreement which had been published in October 1940. The situation was so bad that coffee in quantity was practically unsaleable and the non-native industry were considering an approach to Government either to guarantee prices or to make advances up on coffee stocks.

Contrary to all expectations the signing of the agreement between the Latin-American coffee producing countries and the Union of South Africa led to an immediate, and in some cases a spectacular, rise in prices to such a degree that, aided by a short crop, it was always difficult for exporters to obtain sufficient coffee to fulfill their sales.

After prolonged negotiation a quota was fixed for the import of East African Coffee into the United Kingdom, of which Tanganyika's share was to have been 1,700 tons, at very attractive prices. Arrangements had been made to ship 1,500 tons of this before the end of the year but owing to the delay in completing the agreement it was then found impracticable to obtain more than 825 tons of the qualities required.

In Kenya, where the Coffee Control holds large stocks of unsold coffees, it may be immaterial at what season of the year shipments to the United Kingdom are arranged, but in Tanganyika, where it is not the policy of Government to assume physical control of the crop, it is essential, if the industry is to obtain the full benefit of the English premium, that arrangements for the sale of our coffees should be concluded not later than the end of May.

While the industry as a whole has maintained the normal standards of cultivation, investigation has confirmed the reports of the local authorities that the industry in Bukoba had fallen to a very low level. Through the idleness of the Native Authorities and their unwillingness to co-operate in enforcing remedial measures of cultivation, the bearing capacity of the coffee gardens had fallen off to a dangerous extent and the apathy of the growers and their leaders was being reflected in the haphazard methods of processing the crop prior to export.

The Bukoba coffee industry required reorganization in every aspect and during the year a promising start has been made in the coffee gardens themselves but the methods of those who purchase and prepare the crop for export also require drastic improvement and, although the difficulty of obtaining

adequate supplies of material for the construction of proper sanitary handling sheds may preclude the introduction of adequate remedial measures during the war, it is obvious that to maintain its present sales after hostilities have ceased the coffee industry throughout the province must be prepared for a complete and thorough clean-up.

It is gratifying to record the constant assistance and co-operation which has been received from the trade and exporters generally throughout the year.

Cotton. Cotton exports were equivalent to 65,145 bales valued at £787,717 compared with 59,494 bales and £604,226 for 1940. The actual production in 1941 was 72,766 bales, more than 5,000 bales higher than the previous record total of 67,369 in 1936, and the percentage of first quality cotton was probably the highest on record. The progress made in developing the cotton industry cannot however be considered as highly satisfactory and there is no reason why the Territory without increasing the acreage should not export an annual average of 100,000 bales. The Lake Province registered a record crop of just over 50,000 bales and this very satisfactory position is the climax of many years' work by the staff of the department in the Lake Province, with which it is desired to associate every officer of the Provincial Administration from the Provincial Commissioner downwards.

The Liverpool market being closed for the time being it was necessary to sell our lint on the Bombay market but owing to the very great disparity between "Broach" and Kampala cotton (on which the price of Tanganyika lint is based in India) a much larger element of speculation enters into sales to India that is the case with sales to the United Kingdom, and this speculation is due to the fact that "hedges" can only be made on the value of the type of cotton on which the price is based and not on the premium obtained for cottons superior to the basic type.

It is pleasing to record that the Lake Province crop was disposed of without a hitch, but this may be possibly due to the fact that the ginners' allowances in Tanganyika have been for many years so generous that it would be difficult even for a speculating ginner to make a loss on cotton marketing.

When the reconsideration of ginning areas comes up in 1946 it will be necessary for Government to ensure that cotton producers in the Lake Province secure a greater proportion of the sales' value of their production than is the case at present.

The disposal of the rest of the Territory's cotton presented more difficulty as unlike "Mwanza Local" which, with its even run of quality, is well known on the Bombay Cotton Market and is usually sold forward, the other cottons produced in Tanganyika, although of slightly better quality than those from the Lake Province, are generally sold on sample and the Tanganyika Ginneries' Association were unwilling to purchase this seed-cotton from native producers except on a Government guarantee for its resale.

This attitude of the Ginneries' Association placed Government in a position of some difficulty but fortunately the requisite guarantees were forthcoming and it is pleasing to record that, with the exception of some 2,000 bales mostly of the poorer qualities, the rest of the crop was disposed of at highly satisfactory prices.

The requirement of guarantees by Ginners may prove a two-edged weapon and in view of the fact that the maximum production of foodstuffs may be

required for the Military Forces and for the Middle East generally, Government will have to consider whether, for the period of the war, the encouragement of cotton growing should not be abandoned and replaced by drives for increased food production except in those parts of the Territory which are liable to suffer from famine conditions.

The steady commercial development of the two new strains "Mwanza 561" and "Mwanza 457", will, it is anticipated, tide us over until such time as the good work of the four officers of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, seconded to us from Northern and Southern Rhodesia, bears fruit.

GROUNDNUTS. Exports amounted to 11,312 valued at £155,182. While this is a 38 per cent increase on the previous year it is just half the total produced in the record season of 1936. No special encouragement had been given to increase production owing to the uncertainty of the overseas markets. In the latter part of the buying season abnormally high prices were being offered for what remained of the crop. The f.o.b. value averaged out at approximately £13¾ as compared with £12 for the 1940 crop.

SESAME. The poor prices received in 1940 followed by the recommendation to restrict planting resulted in an export of only 3,018 tons valued at £33,294. Normally the exports reach 4,000 to 5,000 tons, although the 1941 export is higher by nearly 1,000 tons more than that for 1940 it represents an abnormal carry over of stocks from the previous season.

COPRA. Exports were 3,620 tons valued at £34,432 compared with 3,095 tons in 1940 valued at £25,496. Although the exports of copra were increased by a few hundred tons there was a corresponding decrease in the exports of coconut oil which amounted to 1,580 tons compared with 2,221 in 1940. A beginning has been made to improve the quality of copra by the construction of proper kilns.

GRAINS. Very extensive increases in the areas prepared for rice were made. In spite of the fact that the weather conditions were by no means ideal a record export of 17,695 tons was achieved, the previous best being 15,204 tons the year before. This production was particularly valuable because of the heavy demands from neighbouring territories as well as from the military authorities.

Exports of millets and sorghum amounted to 3,280 tons valued at £16,650. Exports of wheat and maize were 2,475 tons and 940 tons respectively valued at £25,762 and £3,673.

TEA. The amount of made tea exported was 761,600 pounds valued at £46,130 compared with 707,840 pounds valued at £48,359 for the previous year. The export this year is the highest yet recorded and is due to the increased acreage coming into bearing since the climatic conditions were extremely adverse in the tea districts.

SUGAR. The export of 5,454 tons valued at £77,178 is a record.

TOBACCO. The Songea native tobacco industry, which produces a light fire-cured type of leaf, suffered from a very adverse season. The quantity of leaf bought dropped from 1,000,136 pounds in 1940 to 786,740 pounds in 1941.

The quantity of native tobacco handled in the Biharamulo District amounted to 22 tons.

The production of flue-cured tobacco by non-natives in the Iringa District increased from 66,100 pounds in 1940 to 323,481 pounds in 1941 due largely to very favourable weather conditions and a strong local demand for this type of leaf.

The Non-Native Tobacco Industry Ordinance, 1941, was enacted to make provision for the controlling and regulating of the cultivation, preparation, grading, packing and marking of tobacco.

Pyrethrum. Exports amounted to 230 tons valued at £18,925 compared with 244 tons valued at £28,539 in 1940. Of the total exports 154 tons were harvested in the Southern Highlands where drought caused a big reduction in the crop.

Other Crops and Products. Exports of beeswax were 712 tons valued at £115,708, of gums (copal and arabic) 1,405 tons valued at £46,754, and of ghee 1,125 tons valued at £82,354.

Vermin, Pests and Diseases. Damage to cultivation by wild pig is considerable over extensive areas. In some areas elephant and hippopotamus damage is increasing.

Throughout the Territory insect damage to cotton was less than usual, though all the usual pests appeared in one or other restricted localities.

For the eighth successive year, migrating swarms of the Red Locust flew north across the Ruvuma river along a line from Songea to Masasi. They followed their usual corridor through Mahenge and Liwale. The more westerly swarms disappeared into the mountain forests between Mahenge and Kilosa, while those in the east carried on along the coastal plain until deflected by the Usambara Mountains to a westerly route right across the Territory to the mountains of Ruanda-Urundi. This movement ceased in August. In November small swarms re-appeared in the Mahenge and Kilosa areas and laid eggs in restricted localities. The hoppers were easily dealt with by the local people.

White borer of coffee and antestia were prevalent in the Mbosi area. The onion industry in the Northern Province suffered from a severe attack of thrips. Elegant grasshoppers were destructive in a number of areas.

A study is being made of the Banana stem and root disease. A new root disease of tea roots was observed for the first time in this Territory.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Soil conservation work throughout the Territory has continued undiminished during 1941 following the general programme laid down and pursued in previous years. In particular areas notably in the Central Province but also in parts of the Northern Province the results of the work this year are most gratifying, the success and the increased scope of the measures achieved being due mainly to the gradual expansion of schemes initiated in former years. In conjunction with soil conservation work considerable attention is being given by means of demonstration and propaganda to the adoption of better farming methods.

In the Lake Province the efforts of previous years have been maintained everywhere and steps have been taken for the adequate protection and control of erosion in new lands which have been brought into cultivation in the Shinyanga District. Several very large surface dams in the Maswa District have been constructed this year in continuance of the policy of conserving water for stock and of checking erosion.

In the Singida District of the Central Province a most successful campaign was launched last year using tribal turn-outs of labour. The plan was extended this year to include the Kondoa and Dodoma districts as well. This was made possible by the secondment for the two months during which the work lasted of four officers and twenty-three agricultural instructors from other areas. Approximately 100,000 man-days were used in the areas and this labour contour-banked 4,400 acres and demarcated a total of 125,000 acres into blocks for controlled grazing. The success of the scheme has been established and is a sound basis for future progress, the aim of which is the control of erosion on five million acres of pasture and one million acres of arable land within a period of ten years.

Excellent progress has been made this year on the slopes of Kilimanjaro where intensive demonstration and propaganda have been in operation for many years. Particular attention has been given to the arable cultivations on the lower fan slopes of the mountain. Demarcation followed up by the construction of contour banks has covered approximately 12,000 acres. More attention has been given than has been possible hitherto in the Mbulu District where an officer of the Department of Agriculture has been stationed for the first time. There the reclamation of damaged pasture land has been commenced and the extension of control measures on the arable fields has continued.

There has been no relaxation in other districts of anti-erosion demonstration and propaganda work and every effort was made to extend the control measures carried out in previous years.

EXPERIMENTAL WORK

The activities of the Sisal Experimental Station at Mlingano were maintained. The work of the Coffee Research and Experiment Station at Lyamungu has been curtailed but every effort has been made to avoid dislocation of progress on the more important field experiments both on and off the station. Work on the other experiment stations of the department, viz.: Ukiriguru, Nyamahona, Lubaga, Tumbi, Mwanhala, Morogoro, Kingolwira and Iheme has continued uninterrupted throughout the year.

The loan to Tanganyika of four officers of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation has made it possible to continue experiments as the cotton stations in the Lake and Eastern Provinces.

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